WORLD FAMOUS BOOK AND ITS AUTHOR, CHARLES WAGNER.

What President Roosevelt Says About the Volume-Interesting Career of the Disciple of Simplicity. How the Book First Made a Hit.

Charles Wagner, author of "The Simple Life," was practically made famous by President Roosevelt, author of "The Strenuous Life," Early in 1902 certain well known New York publishers brought out very quietly a translation of "The Simple Life." At first the book did not attract much attention, except among the literary few, but among the literary few was President Roosevelt. On him the little volume made such an impression that he referred to it in one of his public addresses as follows:

"The other day I picked up a little book called 'The Simple Life,' written by an Alsatian, Charles Wagner, and boys starting to a public school, he preached such wholesome, sound doctrine that I wish it could be used as wear a hat. This, of course, was small matter, but it impressed me. In a tract throughout our country. To him the whole problem of our complex, somewhat feverish modern life can be solved only by getting men and wemen to lead better lives. He sees that the permanence of liberty and democracy depends upon a majority of the people being steadfast in that good, plain morality which as a national attribute comes only as the result of the slow and painful labor of centuries and which can be squandered in a generation by the thoughtless and victous. He only upon America, but also upon the preaches the doctrine of the superiority f the morni to the material, but he insists, as we of this nation should always insist, upon the infinite superiority of the moral and the sordid destruc-



REV. CHARLES WACKER.

tion which comes upon either the nation or the individual if it or he becomes absorbed only in the desire to get wenith,"

This public commendation from the president of the United States, who was the author of a book that seemed the very antithesis of "The Simple Life," aroused public curiosity, and in a very short time there was a large

demand for the volume. Charles Wagner is a popular evanof incongruity that such a work should come from such a source. As Grace King says in her biographical sketch: "From the great metropolis and sovereign see of modern civilization, from the world's beart of sophistication, from Paris, the complex city, comes this volume of little essays upon the simple life. A limpid, bubbling spring. fresh and cool from its forest source. running down one of the boulevards great people expressed in the home of would hardly appear more miraculous to the eye or more refreshing to the

Wagner is a noted man in Paris, the kind of man whom people stare after in the streets. Among the dapper and undergrown Paristans he bulks large, with his great height and massive chest and shoulders. There are various legends, constituting a sort of lit-tle mythology, about his enormous physical strength and the feats supposed to have been achieved by him in his peasant days. For the rest he is described as a man of singular sweetness and straightforwardness of character, with a strong personal charm. He has a wide following, personal as well as ethical,

The early career of this noteworthy man is interesting. He is the son of a Lutheran minister of Alsace, born at Wibersville, in the Vosges, on Sunday morning, Jan. 3, 1852, while his father was preaching in the village church. He was only seven years old when his father died, and yet he was the eldest ply and straightforwardly upon the of five children. The family moved to Phalsbourg, and there Charles labored In the fields and studied for the ministry. He was sent to Paris at fourteen and took a degree at the Sorbonne in 1869. He was a student of theology at the University of Strassburg during the Franco-Prussian war, and there he underwent a sort of spiritual revolu tion, losing his religious faith. He read Spinoza and found in that philosopher something to compensate for what he had lost, but two simple incidents led to the restoration of his religious life. One was the first sight of the Alpa. The mountains seemed to him God's witnesses. The other event was something that has happened to nearly ev crybody-simply the sight of his mother on returning home after a long absence. She was there, loyal to her duty, doing her daily work with tranquil energy, never wearled and never discouraged, and the very thought of her

brought quietude, content, faith. He went from Strassburg to Gottingen in 1875, and from there he returned to Alsace and became assistant pastor at the foot of Ste. Odfile mountain. His native place had been taken into the Prussian territory, his pastorate was within the new German frontier, and for the first time the political change began to weigh on him. There was no sense of political oppression, but a consciousness that intellectual independence was not possible for him in the conquered provinces. He set to work, therefore, to master the French language, accepted a position at Remiremont, in the French Vosges, and in 1882 went to Paris, where he entered upon a successful career as a minister and a literary man. "The Simple Life" is the best known of ser-

eral works that he has written, though 'Youth and Courage" and "The Better Way" are fairly well known to American readers.

After President Roosevelt spoke in complimentary terms of "The Shaple author developed in America that Rev. Mr. Wagner came across the Atlantle to lecture. One of the first men he called upon was President Roos Pelt, and concerning the visit he wrote the following for Success magazine:

"I was particularly struck with the simplicity of the home life of the presithe pomp and ceremony which sur round the rulers of Europe ther seems to be something notable in the entire lack of ostentation in the Boose velt family. I was surprised at Ma Roosevelt's habit of inviting to his pr vate dining table those who are dolar good work in the world quite regar less of what their power or social p sition may be. He looks to the man bit self rather than to his appartune and this is a brushing away of ti superfluities which is rare in men or his position. In Washington I saw h one of them did not even bother

velt do not go to school at all, muc less to a public school. They have corps of private tutors and rarely ven ture into the streets except in clabo rate equipages. "The observance of complete sim plicity in his personal and family life by the president of the United States one of the most powerful rulers on earth, has a wholesome influence no

Europe the children of a ruler with no

one-tenth of the power of Mr. Roos

world at large." When he landed in New York no long ago Rev. Mr. Wagner said; "I love the American people. I want ed to see them in their own country

and to know them personally. To ob tain that end I learned their language and here I am." He referred to the kind of English he was about to speak, saying he had studied the English language only a short while ago to tell the American

people of simplicity, and that if any "secidents" occurred it would not be by premeditation. "I know that you are saying in you hearts that it is not possible to live the simple life in this great city of rushing thought and energy, this city of tremendous activities and skyscrapers."

he said, "but I tell you that it is." "It is possible to live the simple life on the twenty-fourth floor of a New York skyscraper in the midst of all the noise and confusion. The simple life is not a thing of the first floor or the fortieth, not of the shoes or the walstcont, but of the heart.

"Once in Paris, that great city of dust and busy human life, I heard a lark singing in a garden. He was a prisoner, it is true. But when I heard him lifting up his voice to the blue sky and I remembered the freedom of the hills and the fields that had been mine as a boy, the walls and houses of the great city seemed to fade away, to

stretch out and expand. "I speak to you here in the center of one of the most tremendous cities in the world. I sing my song of simplicity like a lark in a cage—but it is a good place to sing it. The more I study your national character here in Amer ica, the more I look into the founds tions of your government, the more I see of your stupendous energy, the more I realize that at the bottom of the all is the simplicity of your national

character. "I visited the White House at Wash ington. I found there nothing of the grandeur of the homes of kings and kaisers, but the pure simplicity of a a chief executive. I was a goest of your president. I pressed his hand, and I had many long talks with him upon the great questions of the day. And again I felt that a splendid sim pliefty was at the root of your national character. Stay true to your traditions; be true to your convictions. The human race demands it of you."

Dr. Wagner told how be came to write "The Simple Life," He was called upon while a pastor in Paris to marry a workman and his sweetheart. One of the six witnesses was the daughter of a great politician.

"I talked to them upon the beauty of living simply," he said. "A few days lady of the land." afterward the young lady came to me to ask me to perform her marriage. and she asked me to give just the same talk that I had to the workman. There were to be 2,000 people present, including the greatest diplomats, the greatest politicians and the leaders in the intellectual and social life of Paris.

"I consented and talked to them simsimple life. There was a publisher present, as there always is, and the next day he asked me to write The Simple Life.' I did, and it has gone through the world everywhere. As for me, I intend to remain a boy, with a boy's heart, till I am an old, old man The author-clergyman's chapel in the Boulevard Beaumarchats, Paris, has grown from a quaint little upper room and is now too small to hold the crowds. that flock to hear him, and generally more than 1,000 persons are furned

away from the doors on Sunday. The Syrian Butbul, The Syrian build (nightlagale) has

the lovellest voice of all God's crea-

tures and the saddest song over heard Shady coverts fringing the Jordan still shelter the bird that "sings darkling." There is a legend that the builds sat in the citye tree in the parriety of Joseph of Arimathea and the night be fore the resurrection through the darkness poured out her soul in sorrowing plaint above the still alsoper In the tomb wherein was never man laid. When the first Easter morning broke over the eastern hills the cars in the nest of the broading bird spar-

kled with gold, blue, orange and crimson, and so we color eggs at Plaster for a memerial of the lone singer who sang by the holy sepulcher. "The City of the King," by Mrs. Lew Wallace. Brain and Brawn, Do you gain your living by your intellect? Then do not allow your army

and legs to grow stiff. Do you carn

REJECTED SUITORS.

FAMOUS LOVERS WHO HAVE EGEM VICTIMS OF CUPID'S PRANKS

Life" such interest in the book and its Byron's Cruel Experience With Miss Chaworth-Shelley's Affairs of the Heart-The Girl Who Was Much Too Good to Marry Abe Lincoln.

It may be of some consolation to the rejected lover to remember that many of the greatest men in history have suffered equal pangs and survived the dent. To one accustomed to viewing | same ordeal to find married happiness

> gifted of men, had more than his share of refusals, and one of them at least was accompanied by words which left a sting to his last day. He was only a Harrow schoolboy of sixteen when e fell madly in love with Miss Chaworth of Annesley, a young helress of

> refused to take him seriously, But the crowning blow came when, in ifterward said, "was like a shot through my heart. Although it was late and pitch dark, I darted out of the use and never stopped running until

the was so alarmed at his heterodoxies that she sent him very decidedly about lifs: bustness

When Sheridan, following the example of many other amorous young men, ill over head and ears in love with Miss Linley, the beautiful singer, "she mly laughed at his arder and made faces at him behind his back," and yet be used that subtle and eloquent ague of his to such purpose that he ctually ran away with her to a French unnery and parried her after fighting everal duels with his rivals and her

e of his first letters, asking her to ome his wife.

States, Bridget was still living, "the been wise, have made her the "first

It is well known that Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, when he was a private of marines, was indignantly refused by girl of very humble rank who thought bernelf "much too good to marry s common soldier," What her reflections were in later years, when the despised private was the powerful king of Sweden and Norway, history does not record.—Philadelphia Times

The Day's Work.

Much of the success of life depends ls.won.- Housekeeper.

Hamlet at Singapore, I saw "Hamlet" played and adapted for Malays at Singapore. It was sung Instead of spoken, and mostly to English tunes. Hamlet addressed the gliest to the tune of "Her Golden Hair" and killed Polonius to "Listen to the Rand." Polonius addressed his son to "That's English, You Know," and, with the king and queen, sang your bread by your pickax? Do not words. The ghost scene included three "Mary Was a Housemald" to other forget to cultivate your mind and to ghosts, two clowns and a bottle of enlarge your thought,-French Medical whilshy

Some Bargains.

oses, all for \$1400.

Even Byrou, that most beautiful and in alfalfa, balance general farming.

But Miss Chaworth treated all the poy's shy advances with laughter and side. Choice for \$1100. contempt, and, although he was "sufthe tortures of the lost" for her Price, \$2500. an adjacent room, he overheard Miss Chaworth say to her maid, "Do you think I could care anything for that ime boy?" "This cruel speech," he

reached Newstead,

Shelley, too, almost as handsome and s gifted as Byron, knew from more an one experience the "pangs of rection." After he had been expelled om Oxford and went to London with is fellow culprit, Hogg, to live, he fell iolently in love with his landlady's laughter, who bore the unromantic ame of Eliza Jenkins, But Eliza, ven though he threatened to commit ricide in his despuir, refused to have nything to do with him, and when a ew months later, having thought better of the suicidal threat, he sought to made himself by paying court to the Harriet Grove, a pretty coustn,

When Burke, the great politician and rator, was a student at Trinity college, Dublin, he is said to have had more than one love disappointment His first infatuation was for the daughter of a small publican, "whose dark eyes fired the blood of the young Irishman," but after coquetting with him for a time she jilted him in the most heartless fashion. His success, 100, with his beautiful countrywoman, at yard \$8 per thousand. Margaret Woffington, was no greater, ugh he remained her loyal lover to

When Abraham Lincoln, as a youth of eighteen, was "living in a rude log cable in Spencer county, Ind., and the intervals of rall splitting and owing," he fell in love with the aughter of a poor Irish settler in a ghboring log cabin, and after many may failures to declare his love

He never received an answer to this dumsy effusion," as he afterward cull- Guaranteed true to name. ed it, but when next he met Bridget tossed her head and looked another way." She was much too good, she is said to have declared, to marry a gawky farm laborer. Then it was that Lincoln left the paternal cabin and voyaged as hired hand on a flatboat into that greater world which before long was to ring with the name of the gawky farm boy. When, thirteen years or so later, Abraham Linbecame president of the United datternly wife of a farm laborer in a log cabin," and still preserved the filnearned letter which might, if she had

on proper preparation for the day's Most people work either in the home or office, and they desire to get the most out of themselves. To rise late, rush through the tollet and gulp down a hasty breakfast is no preparation for a good day's work, yet it is sure to say that the majority of women begin the day in this way. It is just as easy to rise in plenty of time, if one will only do it. The tendency on waking is to stretch and yawn. A few minutes spent in this deep breathing is always restful. This should be followed by a few breaths of fresh air. drinking a couple glasses of water, ex- \$210 cash ercises that suit the case, the bath and tollet. This forms a mental attitude \$325 consistent with a good day's work. A month, at 8 per cent. The lots will adsimple breakfast-some take noneshould follow before an unburried fourmey either to office or the routine of housework. Stand erect, breathe erect,

28, 80 acres, 5 acres 7-year-old apple trees, balance in clover and general

61, 10 acres 4 miles out; splendid year planted. 11 acres in strawberries,

erries 2 years old; 10 acres in clover; 3 acres in apples, 3 and 5 years old, New-towns and Spitzenbergs; 2 good houses, time beauty, who was two years older es free water. \$250 per acre. 114. Two 160-acre tracts about nine miles out; one on east side, other west

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> \$1200, cus) ferms. Two lots 100x100, 8-room house, plasered and papered, fences and sidewalks 24x.30, \$2100; \$1000 down, balance mort-

age at 8 per cont. Many farms all over the valley at rea-Find you homes, rent houses for land-

ioney to loan. Call on me I will find you what you want. EDWIN A. HENDERSON.

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tion of the valley. 4 acres in orchard one year old, 3 acres in berries, 4 acres soil; I acre apples, best varieties; one

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